

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD  
ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 2016 AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**MAYOR:** Tonita Gurule-Giroń

**COUNCILORS:** David L. Romero  
Vincent Howell  
David A. Ulibarri, Jr.  
Barbara A. Casey

**ALSO PRESENT:** Richard Trujillo – City Manager  
Casandra Fresquez – City Clerk  
H. Chico Gallegos – City Attorney  
Juan Montano – Sergeant At Arms

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Gurule-Giroń called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Mayor Gurule-Giroń asked for a moment of silence in order to give condolences to Theresa Roybal and family due to the passing of her husband Cruzito Roybal who was a City Councilor for many years. Mayor Gurule-Giroń described him as a champion for the people and added that he represented his ward and the community with dignity and honor and stated that he would be dearly missed.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

City Manager Richard Trujillo made the recommendation of removing Business Item #1 from the agenda.

Councilor Casey made a motion to approve the agenda with the recommended change of removing Business Item #1. Councilor Ulibarri, Jr. seconded the motion. Mayor Gurule-Giroñ asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Vincent Howell	Yes	Barbara A. Casey	Yes
David L. Romero	Yes	David A. Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez re-read the motion and advised the motion carried.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilor Howell made a motion to approve the minutes for May 16<sup>th</sup> and May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016. Councilor Romero seconded the motion. Mayor Gurule-Giroñ asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Barbara A. Casey	Yes	David A. Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes
Vincent Howell	Yes	David L. Romero	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez re-read the motion and advised the motion carried.

Mayor Gurule-Giroñ took the opportunity to recognize James Esquibel for all his hard work in being an outstanding coach and educator for West Las Vegas Schools.

### **MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS/REPORTS**

There were no appointments/reports at this time.

### **MAYOR'S RECOGNITIONS/PROCLAMATIONS**

City Clerk Fresquez read a recognition on behalf of Mayor Gurule-Giroñ and members of the Governing Body to acknowledge Nicholas Gurule for his dedication to his athletic achievements in attaining the State Champion title in



the Class 2-AAAA Javelin for the third time during his Senior year at West Las Vegas High School and for representing Las Vegas and the State of New Mexico.

City Clerk Fresquez read a recognition on behalf of Mayor Gurule-Giroń and members of the Governing Body to acknowledge all fifteen members of the New Mexico Highlands University Vatos for their achievements in placing in the regional semifinals in the NSCRO National Tournament in Wayne, Nebraska, for their success in the National Small College Rugby Organization in Philadelphia and for the positive representation they have brought to the City of Las Vegas and the State of New Mexico.

Members of the NMHU Vatos Rugby Team included: Kevon Williams, Raymond Henley, Juan Bravo, Earl Smith, Eric Sykes, Dan Wagner, Celester Asuega, Joe Gray Ivey, Jeremy Misailegalu, DiAmaal Holmes, Rydell Curtis, Jeremiah Mitchell, Christopher Encee and Rodrigo Lopez.

City Manager Trujillo advised that a ceremony had previously been held at the NMHU Student Center honoring the Highlands University Vatos and that he had attended representing the City of Las Vegas. City Manager Trujillo stated that he thanked the Vatos Rugby Team for putting Las Vegas and Highlands University on the map.

## **PUBLIC INPUT**

Bob Wessely gave a brief overview of steps the City of Las Vegas had been taking to reduce the impact of the water rate increase upon low income and large family customers and spoke of the importance of improving and simplifying the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and how it would benefit families to offset the rate increase.

Bruce McAllister advised that he was proud of the City's accomplishments in the last 10 years and hoped that the Governing Body could reassure of the City's stability regarding Enterprise Funds for the Storrie agreement.

Dave Maestas spoke on behalf of Recreation Centers Members regarding the closing of the Abe Montoya Recreation Center and hoped that they could be accommodated in another facility.



Mayor Gurule-Giroń advised that questions were not usually addressed during Public Input although in this case advised that questions would be addressed by City Manager Trujillo.

City Manager Trujillo informed that the Recreation Center was not closing for eight months and expressed that it was an eight month construction project. City Manager Trujillo advised that it would be a month to month process and would receive status reports from contractors with hopes of possible use of side doors allowing use of the Recreation Center and added that the public would be notified of when it would be safe to utilize part of the facility.

City Manager Trujillo apologized for the inconvenience and notified that alternative sites at Highlands University and Luna Community College were being looked into.

Questions were asked by an audience member concerning of how to avoid future decay of the Recreation Center.

City Manager Trujillo addressed the questions regarding the question.

Mayor Gurule-Giroń called the meeting to order.

Councilor Casey took the opportunity to remind the audience that protocol and parliamentary procedure requires that if anyone is going to speak, he/she needs to sign up for Public Input and added that if the conversation is opened up, the person needs to ask for permission from the Mayor and comments need to be addressed to the Governing Body.

Michele Atkins declined to speak, due to all her questions being answered.

Perry Montoya advised that he along with many Recreation Center members had started a petition and added that they were looking for viable options of using Recreation Center equipment or using the facility when construction was not taking place. Mr. Montoya also spoke of how it would impact the youth and the community and that he would continue to pursue obtaining a facility through Highlands University and Luna Community College.



Ivan Rodriguez agreed with Mr. Montoya and spoke of the importance of keeping the Recreation Center at different times of the day and how it would benefit many people of the community.

George Martinez advised that he hoped that there was a City building that could accommodate the Recreation Department members and offered the help from members in moving equipment if needed. Mr. Martinez asked for the help of the City to come up with ideas and solutions that would benefit Recreation Center members and the community as well.

Cheryl Romero advised that her husband owned the Chevy dealership and thought that it would be an ideal location for the Recreation Department equipment.

Brief discussion took place regarding the obtaining of a building for the use of the Recreation Department equipment.

Councilor Howell asked City Manager Trujillo if it was possible to hold a Special Meeting to discuss the Recreation Department closing due to the amount of members involved and the negative impact it would have on the youth of the community.

Mayor Gurule-Giroń informed that she thought the City, under the administration of City Manager Trujillo, had done all that they could do to address the issues and asked City Manager Trujillo to give a brief overview.

City Manager Trujillo explained that after gathering information about the Recreation Center construction, he took steps of having City staff look for other alternatives. City Manager Trujillo stated that he liked the ideas about alternative solutions although it had to be well thought out and there were a lot of issues of liability involved in the process.

Brief discussion took place of the various steps that needed to take place in the process of moving equipment to a different facility.



City Manager Trujillo informed that they would continue to pursue solutions with the help of the community as well and added that the City was open to helping in this situation and would do their part although it would be a timely issue.

Councilor Howell stated that he thought that Presidents Sanchez and Miner were very collaborative and would be open to working with leadership of the City and agreed with the liability issues that would come from this effort.

### **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

City Manager Trujillo acknowledged Kenny Roybal and Orlando Gonzales from the IT Department for developing an IT Disaster Recovery Plan and advised that the IT Program had been improving greatly. City Manager Trujillo thanked Mr. Roybal and Mr. Gonzales for their efforts in moving the IT Program forward.

Mayor Gurule-Giroñ commended Finance Director Gallegos and City Manager Trujillo for their patience and diligence in developing of the long overdo IT Disaster Recovery Plan.

City Manager Trujillo advised that four UNM students would be presenting information regarding their Medical Program.

The UNM students gave a brief overview of the month long program in the City of Las Vegas, which was designed to address physician shortage of rural New Mexico and to recruit high school students for early admission to medical school with that mission in mind. The students informed that their hopes were to accomplish a Community Engagement Activity Project providing health initiatives for the community and added that they worked at El Centro and BHI Centers which included shadowing local providers.

The list of UNM students in the BA/MD program at the University of New Mexico was as follows:

- Jaimie Lin, Albuquerque – Wendy Dimmette MD (NMBHI)
- Miranda Chavez, Los Lunas – Mel Olivares MD (NMBH)
- Lucia Vulcan, Las Cruces – Christopher Alliman MD (El Centro)
- Michelle Thomas, Las Cruces – Thomas Strain MD (El Centro)



Councilor Casey commended the UNM students and advised that the BA/MD program had been very successful at UNM and informed that she was chairwoman for the San Miguel County Family and Community Health Council and that the students would be making a presentation to them soon. Councilor Casey acknowledged Elaine Luna from the Area Health Education Center for an outstanding job of bringing the students to the city, making sure the students had a doctor to shadow, completing a community project and presenting to various groups in the city.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

Cindy Collins with MainStreet de Las Vegas gave a detailed presentation on FY 2015-16 deliverables (Contract #3083-15) and the proposed 2016-17 deliverables.

MainStreet de Las Vegas works to stimulate economic development by protecting and enhancing Las Vegas' historically and culturally significant downtown districts which consist of three districts listed on the National and Local Registers of Historic Places: Railroad District, New Town/Douglas Avenue District and Old town/Plaza District.

Mayor Gurule-Giroń acknowledged Ms. Collins as an outstanding facilitator and director of the MainStreet Program and thanked her for her hard work in transforming areas and buildings into amazing historical sites.

Brief discussion took place about the process of the MainStreet request for proposal regarding the increase fund amount.

## **FINANCE REPORT**

Finance Director Ann Marie Gallegos presented the Finance Report for the month ending May 31, 2016 and advised that the General Fund revenue was at ninety two percent and expenditures were at seventy seven percent and added that there was anticipation for a GRT increase with property taxes in June.

Finance Director Gallegos advised that the Recreation Department revenue came in at ninety percent with expenditures at eighty eight percent and stated that the new Recreation Department Director is already monitoring the budget.

Finance Director Gallegos reported that the Enterprise Funds revenue was at ninety one percent and expenditures came in at eighty percent which were both in line with projections.

Mayor Gurule-Giroñ commended Finance Director Gallegos for her outstanding efforts regarding necessary budget cuts and for all that she was doing for the Finance department.

Councilor Howell stated that he noticed a slight increase in the Water Fund revenue.

Finance Director Gallegos advised that they noticed the increase and were not sure if it was due to the spring season although noted that there would be no rate increases regarding Enterprise Funds.

## **BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **2. Approval/Disapproval of David Silva, Esq. to the City of Las Vegas Labor Management Relations Board.**

Management Team Representative Victoria Lovato advised that there is a vacancy on the City of Las Vegas Management Relations Board that the City of Las Vegas Management has recommended to fill as per Chapter 48. Labor Management Relations Board.

Councilor Howell stated that Mr. Silva was well versed in Labor Management and thought he would be a good choice for the appointment.

Councilor Casey made a motion to approve of David Silva, Esq. to the City of Las Vegas Labor Management Relations Board. Councilor Ulibarri, Jr. seconded the motion. Mayor Gurule-Giroñ asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Vincent Howell	Yes	David L. Romero	Yes
Barbara A. Casey	Yes	David A. Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez re-read the motion and advised the motion carried.



3. Approval/Disapproval to appoint Barbara Padilla as the Interim Housing Director.

City Manager Trujillo advised that as per the City of Las Vegas Municipal Charter, Article V, Officers, Directors and Employees, Section 5.07 Departments. C. The city manager shall appoint department directors, subject to approval by the Governing Body.

Mayor Gurule-Giroñ stated for the record *“according to the Charter, we don’t have to bring the Interim Housing Director appointments to the board but because I want full transparency and I want a viable working board, it is very important to me that that respect be given to you as well, so that is why we are here today and I want to also thank you for your continued support.”*

Councilor Casey made a motion to approve to appoint Barbara Padilla as the Interim Housing Director. Councilor Howell seconded the motion. Mayor Gurule-Giroñ asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David L. Romero	Yes	Barbara A. Casey	Yes
Vincent Howell	Yes	David A. Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez re-read the motion and advised the motion carried.

4. Approval/Disapproval to accept State Law Enforcement Protection Funds.

Chief of Police Juan Montano advised that the Las Vegas Police Department respectfully requests permission to accept funding from the Department of Finance and Administration to purchase equipment and advanced officer training and repayment of NMFA loan for police vehicles.

Councilor Howell had questions regarding the balance of the NMFA loan for the vehicles and asked what kind of equipment needed to be purchased.

Chief of Police Montano informed that the balance would be in the area of \$100,000.00 after this fiscal year and advised that equipment purchased would be from duty belt gear, bullet proof vests to certified training and travel.



Councilor Howell asked questions regarding the status of acquiring more police vehicles and about the installation of computers for the police units.

Chief of Police Montano advised that they were currently in communication with USDA regarding new police vehicles and added that they had spoken with City Manager Trujillo in reference to the monies awarded by the Legislature this year. Chief of Police Montano explained that due to the USDA grant being on the Federal Fiscal cycle, it would not be facilitated until November.

Brief discussion took place of the future installment of the computers purchased for the Police vehicles.

Councilor Howell complemented the City of Las Vegas Police Officers and Staff while recently attending and observing Police Inspections.

Councilor Casey asked for the dollar amount of what was allowed to accept from the Law Enforcement Protection Fund.

Chief of Police Montano advised that he did not have the information available.

Finance Director Gallegos advised that the total amount allowed was \$34,065.00.

Councilor Casey stated that she had also attended the Police Inspections and explained that it was a bitter-sweet experience due to finding out that officers had to paint their own vehicles and mentioned that it was an embarrassment to the City and to the Police officers to have to utilize vehicles in such poor conditions. Councilor Casey thanked Chief Montano and commended the officers for taking the initiative and spoke of the importance of the City providing maintenance and vehicles so they can perform their jobs with dignity and respect.

Chief of Police Montano thanked all the officers for their hard work and also thanked Willie Cruz for the use of his garage during that time.

Mayor Gurule-Giroń apologized to Chief Montano for not being able to attend the Inspection due to attending another commitment however commended him for working diligently with his staff. Mayor Gurule-Giroń thanked Finance Director



Gallegos and City Manager for working on obtaining funds for the improvement on safety issues at the Police Department.

Police Chief Montano informed that the department had recently hired three qualified employees.

Councilor Howell made a motion to approve to accept State Law Enforcement Protection Funds. Councilor Casey seconded the motion. Mayor Gurule-Giroñ asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David L. Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes	Barbara A. Casey	Yes
Vincent Howell	Yes	David L. Romero	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez re-read the motion and advised the motion carried.

5. Approval/Disapproval to apply for bulletproof vest grant funding.

Chief of Police Montano advised that the Las Vegas Police Department respectfully requests permission to apply for funding to purchase bullet proof vests for officer safety and added that the vests would be provided to the newly hired officers and would be fitted to them specifically.

Mayor Gurule-Giroñ questioned the amount the City would receive from the Law Enforcement Protection Fund Distribution (LEPF) and asked if the integrity of the bullet proof vests would be compromised once it received a gunshot.

Chief Montano advised that this was a joint grant application with San Miguel County and informed that the county would receive \$5,000.00 and the City would receive the remainder which was \$7,928.00. Chief Montano informed that the vest is compromised once it receives a gunshot and added that there are OSHA regulations to replace the vests although stated that they were in compliance with OSHA standards.

Councilor Casey made a motion to approve to apply for bulletproof vest grant funding. Councilor Howell seconded the motion. Mayor Gurule-Giroñ asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:



Vincent Howell	Yes	David L. Romero	Yes
Barbara A. Casey	Yes	David A. Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez re-read the motion and advised the motion carried.

## **COUNCILOR'S REPORTS**

Councilor Howell had questions concerning the drainage at Hanna Park.

Interim Utilities Director Maria Gilvarry advised that they were reviewing the drainage issues with Molzen-Corbin engineers and were currently working on the design with the intentions of bringing in a contractor and informed that a time frame was not yet determined.

City Manager Trujillo added that he also wanted to evaluate Hannah Park to make sure it was designed properly in order for water to stay in the park.

Interim Utilities Director Gilvarry added that they were looking into different paths in order to include more potential city facilities along the way and to ensure they had the best layout to provide adequate pressure.

Councilor Howell asked if the LIHEAP Program would be simplified in order to help individuals who need to apply for assistance in paying their utility bills.

City Manager Trujillo advised that he had met with Utilities staff to clarify the process of applying for the LIHEAP program and also discussed the amount of money that had been given to those who have qualified and how it would impact the rate increase.

Councilor Howell asked if the New Mexico State Engineer's Office required the City to publish the interest of the Storrie Project in order to move forward with the project and also asked if the underground storage project was on hold.

City Manager Trujillo clarified that he had not received anything from the New Mexico State Engineer's Office regarding to publish the interest of the Storrie Project and advised that the underground storage project was put on hold and would later bring a projects status report to Council in August or September.



Councilor Casey informed that the CCHP was hosting the State Historic Preservation Conference and advised that she was contacted by CCHP member Doyle Daves who was very distressed of the condition of Reappears Park, while recently giving a tour. Councilor Casey explained that the City was part of an agreement with CCHP with the understanding that the City would have the responsibility of maintaining the park and stated that Mr. Daves requested that the City clean the park on a regular bases, which was part of the agreement.

City Manager Trujillo apologized and advised that he was not notified although would have had the area cleaned in time for the tour and added that he would address the issue with Public Works staff.

Councilor Romero addressed several concerns regarding the weeds throughout the City.

Discussion took place regarding Code Enforcement Department relocating to the Police Department and soon addressing the issue of weeds in various areas in town.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

City Manager Trujillo advised there was no need for Executive Session.

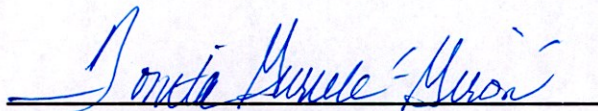
## **ADJOURN**

Councilor Howell made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Casey seconded the motion. Mayor Gurule-Giroń asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David A. Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes	Vincent Howell	Yes
Barbara A. Casey	Yes	David L. Romero	Yes

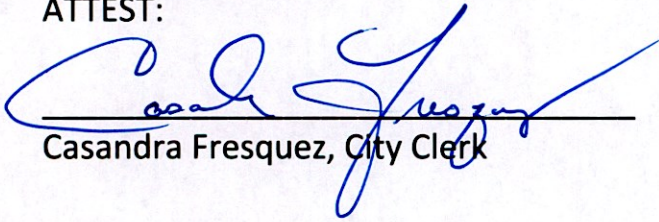
City Clerk Fresquez re-read the motion and advised the motion carried.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Tonita Gurule-Giroñ", written over a horizontal line.

Mayor Tonita Gurule-Giroñ

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Casandra Fresquez", written over a horizontal line.

Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk